

Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Acceleration Act of 2004

Summary of H.R. 4103

- Extends overall program from 2008 until 2015 as proposed by President Bush while addressing African leaders in 2003.
- Extends 3rd country fabric provision for three years, from September 2004 until 2007, including a phase down in year three. The cap would remain at the full current level available in years one and two. In the third year, the cap would be phased down by 50%.
- Includes a statement of Congressional policy that textile and apparel provisions under the program should be interpreted in a broad and trade-expanding manner to maximize opportunities for imports from Africa, accompanied by minor technical corrections to reverse overly restrictive interpretations by Customs officials. This includes a modification to the rule of origin to allow use of non-AGOA produced collars and cuffs for all import categories and continued use of fabric from AGOA countries that also become free trade partners with the United States, such as South Africa.
- Includes findings and statements of policy about the benefits to Africa of AGOA and supporting various sub-Saharan Africans efforts such as to reduce poverty, promote peace, attract investment and trade, and fight HIV-AIDS.
- Provides a Sense of the Congress that Africans should support WTO negotiations and trade liberalization.
- Expands the current “folklore” AGOA coverage to include ethnic fabric made on machines.
- Encourages bilateral investment agreements.
- Directs the Administration to implement an interagency trade advisory committee.
- Encourages the development of infrastructure projects that increase trade capacity through the ecotourism industry.
- Directs the President to assign personnel for the purpose of providing agricultural technical assistance to select AGOA countries and advising them on improvements in their sanitary and phytosanitary standards to help them meet U.S. requirements.
- Promotes investment in infrastructure projects that support the development of land transport roads, railways, and ports, the expansion of modern information and communication technologies, and agriculture.
- Facilitates increased coordination between customs services at ports and airports in the United States and sub-Saharan countries to reduce time in transit and increase efficiency and safety procedures.